

Dear Honorable Members of the Joint Committee on Planning and Development
My name is Wendy LEGault of Somers CT

I am a Connecticut resident and I strongly urge you to support HB 5170 An Act Concerning the Tethering and Sheltering of Dogs

- This legislation is long overdue in Connecticut. Connecticut suffers from extremely harsh winters – this year we had record breaking cold – and sweltering summers. Many states around us already have these protections in place for animals.
- The bill is straightforward, humane and fair. It seeks to protect dogs during extreme weather conditions before they show visible signs of suffering and distress when it's evident the weather poses a threat to the dog's welfare.
- Significantly, it gives Animal Control Officers clear direction and the necessary tools to help before the situation becomes life-threatening.
- The bill passed the House overwhelmingly in 2018; now we need to finish what was begun four years ago.

The laws for our pets need to equal the laws for children & elderly who cannot speak or care for themselves.

Pets are not property, they are feeling, loving, intelligent beings who need us to be their advocates/parents/protectors.

Thank you for your consideration and I urge the Committee to pass HB 5170.

Wendy LeGault
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